

HIGHWORTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Maidstone Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 8UD
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Head of Geography **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Highworth Grammar School is a successful 11-18 selective girls' school with approximately 80 boys in the Sixth Form. There are 1534 students on roll – 1088 in Years 7-11 and 446 in Years 12 and 13. Our school is widely recognised as being innovative and highly successful. Highworth has a strong academic reputation and our students are recognised as mature and reliable young people. We aim to deliver the best possible education to all of our students in a safe and secure environment

Our motto of 'Reach for the Stars' embodies the daily working life of the whole school community; students are encouraged to see learning as a lifelong activity. A key feature of our motto is happiness which is achieved through excellent student behaviour in lessons; clear policies and guidance; strong leadership; and enthusiastic community spirit. It is important that both staff and students feel confident, happy and valued.

Students at Highworth are given rewards for creativity, problem solving, achievement resilience and team work. We value the development of a full range of skills to offer students the best preparation for future challenges. Working here allows staff to share this balanced approach to education; embrace new ideas; and sustain a sense of enjoyment in their own learning.

Whilst the school is academic we recognise and fully support the creative aspects of the curriculum and are proud of the many opportunities provided for achievement in music, DT, and the arts. We believe this is crucial in our ethos in encouraging our students to be independent, creative and highly motivated lifelong learners.

During the June 2013 Ofsted Inspection the school was judged as an Outstanding School. In 2019 our A Level results placed us in the top 25% of schools nationally.

FEATURES OF THE SCHOOL

These include:

- Caring, supportive and committed staff
- Commitment to professional development
- High academic standards with a large proportion of outstanding lessons
- Vertical Tutoring
- Cloud storage and software provided by Google.
- Laptop for every teacher
- Wireless multimedia projector for every classroom
- 2 dedicated ICT suites (air conditioned)
- 28 mobile laptop trolleys
- New sports hall
- 10 dedicated Science labs
- 3 Performing Arts studios

- Music Technology suite and recording studio
- DT suite with latest technology
- Research into use of new technologies/pedagogy
- Cover supervisors to minimise staff cover
- 10 day timetable with five one hour lessons per day. Current maximum teaching time for full time teachers is 45 out of 50 teaching periods

Students

The school has a wide catchment area, taking students from over 40 primary schools, many of which are situated in small villages within the Kent countryside. Entry at age 11 is by the Kent Education Committee Selection Procedure, which aims to identify the top 25% of the ability range. Some students transfer to our school at 16+ from other schools.

Staff

We are fully committed to the professional development of all our staff. All new teachers and ECTs follow a well informed and structured induction programme. All staff are encouraged to pursue personal goals and the school fully embraces interest in pastoral and pedagogical innovation. Every member of staff takes part in the annual performance development scheme which also embodies our motto of 'Reach for the Stars'.

Curriculum

Our curriculum at Key Stage 3 includes all the National Curriculum subjects (Art & Design, English with Drama, Geography, History, Mathematics, Modern Languages - French, German and Spanish, Music, Physical Education, Dance, Religious Education, Design Technology, Computing and Science).

We offer all Key Stage 3 subjects through to A Level together with Business Studies, Dance, Economics, Film Studies, Further Mathematics, Government & Politics, Media, Photography, Psychology, Sociology and Theatre Studies.

In the current Year 12, students take three or four A Level subjects, continuing with at least three to full A level. They can also take the Extended Project and qualify for the AQA Bacc. The majority of our students proceed to courses at Universities and in the last academic year all students who made applications, successfully found suitable places in higher education.

THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Geography at Highworth aims to enrich students beyond the curriculum, we always strive to ensure students are curious, questioning and reflective. Geographers at Highworth are knowledgeable about places and the challenges different societies face, they are good global citizens because they utilise contextual knowledge gained in lessons, and they always endeavour to make empathetic and sustainable choices.

Supported by an excellent team of prefects and ambassadors the department is rich in ideas that stimulate students' curiosity beyond the classroom. The department is very unique as there is a plethora of opportunities for students to learn out in the field, this includes a fieldwork opportunity in year 7. Students also conduct fieldwork in the local area of Ashford (Year 10) and Tankerton Beach (Year 9), as well as the opportunity for an international trip if the subject is chosen as a GCSE or A-Level option, in the past this has included trips to places such as Sicily and

Iceland. Currently, there are 3 teachers of Geography and the department is very much run by the ethos of teamwork and sharing of good practice and resources.

In KS3 (Years 7-9) students' study begins with the undertaking of a field investigation on the Wye Downs followed by an exploration of Human and Physical Geography through the topics of; Map Skills, Rainforests, Africa, Asia, Rivers, Russia, The Middle East, Hazards and Ice.

This knowledge is then built upon in their GCSE studies which begin in Year 10, following the AQA specification guidance. The topics are taught to assess students across 3 papers, these include;

Paper 1 – Living with the Physical Environment (35%)

Paper 2 – Challenges of the Human Environment (35%)

Paper 3 – Geographical Applications (30%)

At KS5 these skills and knowledge are developed even further. Students follow the AQA specification and study the following topics;

Paper 1 – Physical Geography (40%)

- Section A: Water and Carbon Cycles
- Section B: Coastal System and Landscapes
- Section C: Hazards

Paper 2 – Human Geography (40%)

- Section A: Global Systems and Global Governance
- Section B: Changing Places
- Section C: Contemporary Urban Environments

Component 3 of this A-Level is the NEA (20%) which is an individual and independent investigation where data collection days are undertaken in the Lake District following guidelines set out by the exam board.

The A Level and GCSE results for June 2023 and the Highworth Grammar School performance measure page can be accessed using this link:

<https://www.find-school-performance-data.service.gov.uk/school/136379/highworth-grammar-school>

Highworth Grammar School is committed to:

- *safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people. This post will require an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS)*
- *creating a diverse workforce. We will consider all qualified applicants for employment without regard to sex, race, religion, belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy, maternity, age, disability, marriage or civil partnership.*

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Head of Geography **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Good honours degree
- Qualified Teacher Status
- Evidence of further relevant professional development

SKILLS:

- Ability to lead, inspire, motivate and support students and colleagues
- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines
- Good ICT skills
- Ability to think strategically
- Ability to forge links with the wider community
- Able to lead a strong, closely knit team where ideas are shared and developed together

EXPERIENCE

- Evidence of successful, inspiring and innovative teaching in the secondary phase, particularly A Level
- An excellent track record of success with public examination results.
- Co-ordinating and collaborating with colleagues
- Teaching Geography to GCSE and A level

KNOWLEDGE:

- Up to date knowledge of developments in pedagogical techniques relevant to Geography, such as modelling, retrieval practise and scaffolding.

PERSONAL QUALITIES:

- High levels of personal and professional integrity
- Personal warmth to gain the confidence of students, staff and parents
- Appropriate levels of personal presentation
- Ability to communicate concisely and sensitively both orally and in writing to a variety of audiences
- A passion for teaching Geography

ATTITUDES:

- A willingness to share experiences and learn from colleagues
- A team player with leadership skills
- A commitment to child protection and safeguarding
- A reflective and flexible approach
- Positive, enthusiastic and energetic approach to life
- Ability to think creatively and imaginatively
- Supportive of the School's ethos
- High expectations of student attainment, personal development and conduct
- Commitment to professional development